

12/1/48

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, ICAPS

SUBJECT: CIA Situation Reports (SR-Series)

REFERENCE: g. Memorandum from the Intelligence Organization, Department of State, to Chief, ICAPS, dated 9 November 1948 (Confidential)

ENCLOSURE: A. Status Report of SR-Series as of 1 December 1948

1. The Office of Reports and Estimates is in complete agreement with the principle implied in reference g: namely, that the production of Situation Reports should not be continued concurrently with the production of National Intelligence Surveys. Indeed, from its inception the SR program has been considered an interim means of achieving limited objectives pending the availability of the National Intelligence Surveys. Nor is it now desired in any way to pursue the SR program to the detriment of the NIS program.

2. Nevertheless, it should be noted that complete NIS's will not begin to be available for distribution for at least one year. In view of this, it is desirable to have some coverage of world areas in event of unforeseen emergency. Hence it is not now proposed to discontinue summarily the SR program, but rather to taper off gradually and in a way which will put a minimum burden on the IAC agencies.

3. To accomplish the above objectives it is proposed:

- a. That the SR series be limited substantially to the reports listed in Enclosure A.
- b. That no department be requested to draft any part of reports produced subsequent to this date.
- c. That departmental participation be restricted to the preparation of comment on CIA drafts.
- d. That CIA continue to accord a low priority to this series.

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4. Furthermore, there is under active development by ORE a program for National Intelligence Estimates (NIE) for all important world areas which will utilize existing basic intelligence pending the availability of the NIS. The NIE program will gradually replace the SE-Series, and it should provide a significant contribution to the National Intelligence Plan wholly in consonance with the mission of the CIA.

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